(2) The Criminal Procedure Code Amendment Bill.

(3) The Land Acquisition Regulation Amendment Bill.

(4) The Forest Regulation Amendment Bill.

The above Bills became law as Regulations VI, VII, VIII and IX of 1085 respectively.

I beg further to report that Mr. P. Kesava Pillai, High Court Vakil, Quilon, appointed a non-official member of the Council *vice* Mr. Udaya Varma Raja, takes his seat in Council today.

A petition, received from the Honorary Secretary, Quilon Bar Library, *re* the Court Fees Bill, was then reported to the Council, by whose direction, the same was deferred for consideration along with the Select Committee's Report on that Bill.

THE STAMP REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Ananda Row.—I beg to apply for permission to introduce a Bill to amend the Stamp Regulation, IV of 1080.

Permission was granted accordingly.

THE BREACH OF CONTRACT REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Ananda Row.—I also beg leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Breach of Contract Regulation, II of 1080.

Permission was granted accordingly.

THE HACKNEY CARRIAGE BILL.

Mr. Ananda Row.— I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Hackney Carriage Bill. The Report, and the Bill as amended by the Committee, have been published in the Gazette and copies thereof circulated among the members. I move that the Report be taken up for consideration.

Seconded by Mr. Vieyra.

The motion was put and agreed to.

President.—Para 2 of Section 1 provides for the Regulation being extended to any other town or place in Travancore. Such stringent provisions as the Bill contains, will probably be seldom required in rural areas. It is also doubtful if there are hackney carriages plying for hire in rural parts. It will probably be hardly found necessary to extend this law to any place other than a town.

Mr. Ananda Row.—I propose that the words "or place" in line 4 of para of Section 1 be omitted and that the word "place" in line 4 of para 2 of Section 2 be substituted by the word "town".

Seconded by Mr. Vieyra.

Carried.

Mr. Ananda Row.—I move that the words "in this Regulation" in paras 2 and 3 of Section 2 be omitted.

Seconded by Mr. Padmanabha Iyer.

Carried.

President.—It is seen from Section 3 and the succeeding provisions, that it is proposed to give the Superintendent of Police the control over the hackney carriages plying in the town. It is a question for consideration whether such matters, relating to Municipal administration, may not more appropriately be entrusted to the President of the Town Improvement Committee, the receipts on account of the working of the law being added to the Town Fund.

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The sense of the meeting being in favour of the suggestion, Mr. Ananda Row proposed that the words "President of the Town Improvement Committee" be substituted for the words "Superintendent of Police" wherever the latter occur, throughout the Bill.

Seconded by Mr. Padmanabha Iyer.

Carried.

Mr. Kuruvila.—I beg to propose that the amount of fine prescribed in Sections 14 and 15 be reduced from "fifty" to "twenty" rupees.

Seconded by Mr. Sri Narayanan Tampi.

Carried.

Mr. Subrahmanya Iyer.—As the working of the law has been decided to be entrusted to the President of the Town Improvement Committee, it is necessary that the Committee's officers should also have power to seize unlicensed carriages. For the same reason, the carriages seized should be taken to the Committee's office, instead of to the Police Station. I therefore beg to move that para 2 of Section 14 be recast as follows:—

"Any Town Improvement Committee officer or police officer may seize and remove to the Town Improvement Committee office, or such other place as the President of the Town Improvement Committee may prescribe for the purpose, such hackney carriage, together with the animals drawing the same."

Seconed by Mr. Ananda Row.

Carried.

Mr. Subrahmanya Iyer.—I propose that the word "licensee" be substituted for the words "person to whom such license is granted" in Section 17 (2), and that the words "on which the license was granted" in Section 17 (4) be changed into "of the grant of the license".

Seconded by Mr. Kuruvila.

Carried.

Mr. Ananda Row.—I propose that, as the fee of two chackrams specified in Section 18 for a certified copy of the license is too low, it be raised to four chackrams.

Seconded by Mr. Raman Pillai.

Carried.

Mr. Padmanabha Iyer.—I propose that the word "seven" be substituted for "fourteen" in para 3 of Section 21. This amendment is intended to bring the period of imprisonment to be awarded in default of payment of fine into conformity with the period prescribed in the other penal clauses of the Bill.

Seconded by Mr Kuruvila.

Carried.

Mr. Subrahmanya Iyer.—Agreeably to the amendment made in para 2 of Section 14, I beg to propose that the words "officer of the Town Improvement Committee or any" be inserted between the words "any" and "police" in line 1, of Section 24.

Seconded by Mr. Kesava Pillai.

Carried.

Mr. Vieyra.—I propose that the words "English, Malayalam and Tamil" be substituted for the words "the English and Malayalam or other Vernacular languages" in Section 31, and that a similar amendment be made also in para 2 of Section 44.

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Seconded by Mr. Subrahmanya Iyer.

Carried.

Mr. Kuruvila.—I beg to propose that the amount of fine prescribed in Section 36 be reduced from "twenty" to "ten" rupees and the period of imprisonment from "one month" to "fourteen days."

Seconded by Mr. Sri Narayanan Tampi.

Carried.

Mr. Ananda Row.—It is provided in Section 39, para 2, that the hirer or driver may, in case of any dispute, require the other to proceed to the nearest police officer, if no Magistrate be sitting at the time. A police officer may not always be found and it may be more convenient and practicable for the parties to appear at the nearest Police Station. I therefore beg to move that the words "Police Station, the officer in charge of which" be inserted instead of the words "police officer, who" in line 3 of para 2 of Section 39.

Seconded by Mr. Kuruvila.

Carried.

Mr. Ananda Row.—I propose that the word "Magistrate" be substituted f the words "Superintendent of Police" in para 2 of Section 46 and for the wor "Superintendent" in paras 2 and 3 of the same Section.

Seconded by Mr. Vieyra.

Carried.

Mr. Ananda Row.—I beg to propose that the words "and shall be credited to the Town Improvement Committee" be added to the end of Section 47.

Seconded by Mr. Vieyra.

Carried.

Mr. Ananda Row.—In view of the amendments already made, I propose that Section 49 be recast as follows:—

"Whenever this Regulation shall be extended to any town where there is no Town Improvement Committee, Our Government may appoint any person to perform the duties imposed by this Regulation on the President of the Town Improvement Committee".

Seconded by Mr. Vieyra.

Carried.

Mr. Ananda Row.—It may be found convenient in the practical working of the law, that some of the minor details are left to the subordinate officers of the Town Improvement Committee, and, for that purpose, the President should be empowered to delegate some of his powers. I therefore beg to propose that the following be inserted as an additional Section 50:—

"50. It shall be lawful for the President of the Town Improvement Committee, with the sanction of Our Government, to delegate to any officer of the Town Improvement Committee, by name or by office, all or any of the powers conferred on the President by this Regulation".

Seconded by Mr. Vieyra.

Carried.

Mr. Ananda Row.—I beg to move that the Bill, as amended by the Council, be read again on a future day of which notice shall be given.

Seconded by Mr. Vieyra.

Carried.

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